SOP 22 - Waste Disposal and Storage

A. Experiments and operations should have provisions for waste disposal and storage under both routine and emergency operating conditions.

B. Where possible, hazardous substances should be converted to less hazardous substances prior to disposal (e.g., diluting, cooling, neutralizing, reducing, or oxidizing hazardous chemicals).

C. Disposal to Sewage System

1. Only water soluble substances should be disposed of in a laboratory sink.

2. Acids or bases should be diluted to the pH 3-11 range prior to disposal in the laboratory sink; they should be poured into the sink at a rate not to exceed the equivalent of 50 ml of the concentrated substance per minute.

3. Prior to disposing of chemicals in a laboratory sink, consideration should be given to potential cross contamination with other sinks which may be on the same sewage line.

4. Certain chemicals may not be disposed in laboratory sinks unless special plumbing arrangements have been made.

5. Disposal of any chemical substance into the sewage system or otherwise is an extremely environmentally sensitive issue. If an employee contemplating waste chemical disposal has any questions or concerns about the appropriateness or the human or environmental safety of a given disposal under consideration, the Collateral Duty Safety Officer must be consulted prior to such disposal.

D. Hazardous chemicals which cannot be disposed in a laboratory sink must be properly and fully labeled, and then placed in the Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation Point (SAP) or the Hazardous Waste Area of the Chemical Holding Room for disposal by contractor.